

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. 1.

ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1899

NO. 132

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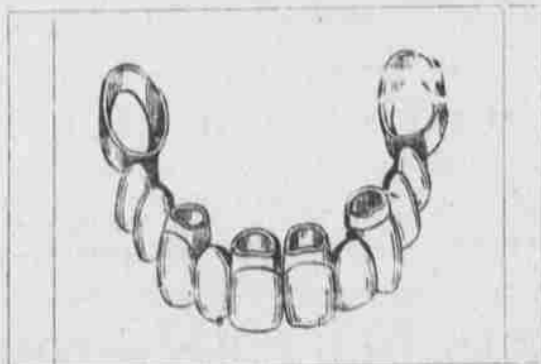
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WHITE SUFFERS THE LOSS OF TWO THOUSAND MEN

A Brilliant Victory for the Transvaal General.

JOUBERT'S SPLENDID TACTICS

Two Regiments and a Battery Fall Into the Hands of the Boers.

A HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE IS CERTAIN

Consternation Seizes London and the War Office is Besieged by Anxious Inquirers—Many Mourning Homes in England and Ireland—Rushing the Troops to Relieve Ladysmith—The Disaster a Staggering Blow to Great Britain—White's Position Critical.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—There was a continuous stream of callers at the war office until a late hour tonight, everybody anxiously inquiring regarding yesterday's casualties, but the war office declared that nothing had been received since Sir George White's dispatch communicating the capture of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Gloucestershire regiments.

This delay in getting further intelligence is attributed in part to a break down of the east coast cable, but it stands to reason that the war office must be possessed of further news which it is probably not thought advisable should be published as yet.

LONDON, Nov. 1.—An ominous curtain has again descended upon affairs in Natal. No dispatches, except the official telegrams of General Sir George Stewart White, have thus far been permitted to mention the disaster, and no telegram from Ladysmith has been received in London since his advice from the British commander.

This gives rise to the belief that communications have already been cut, in which event some time must elapse before the details regarding the British losses are received.

If the war officials have received any information on this point they have refrained from publishing it.

In the absence of news, the morning papers are reduced to speculation as to how the disaster occurred. The general opinion is that the misuse of the cavalry was the real reason for the fall into the Boer trap.

The Times says: "We have met with a considerable reverse. It is for the nation to show that it can bear ill fortune with courage and dignity."

There is no general desire evinced on the part of the morning papers to criticize Sir George White harshly, pending the arrival of further details. On the contrary, the disposition is to admire his manly courage in assuming full responsibility.

Abroad, especially in France, no pains are taken to disguise the satisfaction felt in consequence of the British reverse.

THE FEELING IN ENGLAND.

Fear That Joubert Is Outgeneraling the British Commander.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—Disaster has caused a feeling akin to consternation and in Gloucestershire and the north of Ireland where the captured regiments were recruited, the blackest gloom prevails, families awaiting with beating hearts the names of the killed and wounded which are fully expected to reach a high figure.

Many homes are already in mourning in consequence of losses sustained by these regiments in previous engagements.

The public anxiety was increased by a special dispatch from Ladysmith published in the late editions of London afternoon papers to the effect that before darkness yesterday, the Boers, reoccupied the old position held by their heavy artillery, which General White had reported silenced by the guns of the naval brigade from the Powerful, and had opened fire again.

The dispatch further says: The enemy are again closing in and the situation is one of grave anxiety. Beyond doubt the Boer tactics of yesterday (Monday) was a ruse to draw General White into the hilly country and away from the British camp.

This last sentence is significant and confirms the opinion of the military experts here that General White is allowing himself to be outgeneraled by Commandant General Joubert.

From the scant advice received up to 11 p. m., it seems tolerably certain that the disaster was simply a repetition of the battle of Majuba Hill, though on larger scale. Two regiments were allowed to march into a trap set for them by the Boers. It is simply a case of Boer spider and guileless British fly. In fact, the whole engagement seems to have been brought on by Commandant General Joubert, who skillfully conceived a gigantic trap, out of which, as the official dispatch shows, Sir George White only escaped with difficulty.

General White advanced with the idea of driving the Boers from a hill seven miles out, which General Joubert made an ostentatious show of fortifying Sunday.

The Boer commander left a force sufficient to draw General White on, while the mass of the Boers he moved stealthily around the British right, to deliver a flank attack and to endeavor to cut off General White from Ladysmith.

The British commander succeeded in beating off the attack, but only with great difficulty, and during the turning movement his troops suffered from a flanking fire.

Harsh things are said in military circles of the British tactics which made

possible the ambush of the Eighteenth hussars at Glencoe and now the loss of two fine regiments.

It is feared that Sir George White is no match for the Boers in that cunning for which the Boers are noted, and it is pointed out that if the British commanders continue to lead the men into obvious traps further disasters must be looked for.

GENERAL WHITE'S REPORT.

Says He Formed the Plan Which Led to Disaster and Is Alone to Blame.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—Following is the text of General White's dispatch to the war office:

"LADYSMITH, Oct. 30.—10:45 p. m.—I have to report a disaster to the column sent by me to take a position on a hill to guard the left flank of the troops. In these operations today the Royal Irish fusiliers, No. 10 mountain battery and the Gloucestershire regiment were surrounded in the hills, and after losing heavily, had to capitulate. Casualties have not yet been ascertained.

"A man of the fusiliers employed as a hospital orderly came in under a flag of truce with a letter from the survivors of the column, who asked for assistance to bury the dead. I fear there is no doubt of the truth of the report. I formed a plan in the carrying out of which the disaster occurred, and I am alone responsible for the plan. There is no blame whatever on the troops, as the position was untenable."

A STAGGERING BLOW.

The Loss Appalling to General White, and It Is Believed He Is Practically Surrounded.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—While minor reverses were not wholly unexpected, nothing like the staggering blow General Joubert delivered to General White's forces yesterday were anticipated. The full extent of the disaster is not yet acknowledged, if it is known, at the war office. The loss, in effect, must be appalling to General White, who is practically surrounded. Two of the finest British regiments and a mule battery deducted from Ladysmith garrison weakens it about a fifth of its total strength and alters the whole situation very materially in favor of the Boers, who have again shown themselves strong fighters and military strategists of no mean order.

This disaster cost the British 1,500 to 2,000 men and six seven-pound screw guns, and as the Boer artillery is already stronger than imagined, the capture of these guns will be a great help to the Boers. Further news must be awaited before it is attempted to fix the blame where it belongs. White manfully accepts all responsibility for the disaster, which was at least partly due to the scamping of tactics with the guns.

Interest in the news was universal, pervading all conditions of London's population. The newspaper extras were eagerly read in business houses, on the streets and by women in their carriages. Then there was a rush to the war office, which by noon was surrounded by private carriages and hansom cabs, while many of the humbler class of people came on foot, all waiting and watching for names they held dear.

Never was the old saying, "Bad news travels quickly" better exemplified than today. By noon, sorrow prevailed throughout the British metropolis. At the government offices, no effort was made to conceal the feeling of dismay prevailing. One official said to a representative of the Associated Press: "It is inexplicable, and I am sorry to say, that its moral effect is incalculable. We have lost heavily in many ways and had regiments almost wiped out, but to have regiments captured, and by Boers, it is horrible."

An official of the war office said to a representative of the Associated Press: "The disaster is more likely due to the craze of our younger officers to distinguish themselves, obtain mention in dispatches and earn a Victoria cross,

than to the fault of that splendid Indian veteran, General White, in spite of his avowal."

As the day wore on the crowds around the war office swelled to enormous proportions, and at Gloucester, the home of many of those engaged, the wildest excitement prevailed.

Special editions of the local newspapers were speedily exhausted and the same thing occurred at Bristol and other towns in that country. Coming so soon after the engagement at Rietfontein, where the Gloucestershires suffered heavily, this fresh disaster brought the keenest sorrow to households all over the country whose name the regiment bears.

The disaster had immediate effect on the stock exchange, where consols fell one-half; South African securities dropped heavily.

LIST OF OFFICERS TAKEN.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—General White, in a subsequent dispatch says:

"The following is a list of officers taken prisoners today: Staff Major Ayle, Irish fusiliers; Colonel Carleton, Major Munn, Major Kincaid, Captains Burrows, Rice and Silver, Lieutenants Hard, Southey, Phibbs, McGregor, Holmes, Kelly, Dooner, Kentish, Killahan, Jendwine, Chaplain Matthews. Of the above Captains Rice and Silver and Lieutenant Dooner were wounded.

"Gloucestershire regiment: Majors Humphrey, Capeture and Wallace, Captain Duncan, Captain Connor, Lieutenants Bryant, Nesbitt, Ingham, Davey, Knox, Temple, Radice, Brau, Hill, Smith, Mackenzie, Beasley and Gray. Of the above, Captains Duncan and Connor were wounded.

"Royal artillery: Major Bryan. "Mounted battery: Lieutenants Wheeler, Nugent, Moore and Webb.

RESERVES CALLED OUT.

A Second Army Corps Will be Organized and Rushed to Service at Once.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—The commander-in-chief, Lord Wolseley, has issued an order for the mobilization by November 5 of the reserves of Suffolk, Essex and Derbyshire regiments, who will be added to the South Africa forces.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—The war office has sent the following dispatch to General Buller: "Three extra battalions of foot and one mountain battery with reserves, will leave England during the course of ten days to make good your casualties."

LONDON, Oct. 31.—It is learned by the Associated Press that the war office has ordered the second army corps to be in readiness to be called out. The military officials have not yet decided whether the consummation of the plan will be necessary, but they are determined to have everything in readiness either for a demonstration in Europe or Great Britain's capabilities, or for the sending of even a larger force to the scene of action.

Until the receipt of news of the Ladysmith disaster, the latter course was

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

HOBART'S PUBLIC LIFE IS OVER

There is No Hope For a Permanent and Complete Recovery.

CONDITION VERY CRITICAL

His Family Authorizes the Announcement That in No Event Will He Return to Washington.

PATERSON, N. J., Nov. 1.—Vice President Hobart's condition was favorable at 2 o'clock this morning. "There is no immediate danger," is the latest bulletin.

A statement of the origin and development of the illness of Vice President Hobart is authorized by his family and the physicians who have attended him. Several reasons are given why the exact nature of the vice president's malady has been withheld from the public.

In the first place, the family have desired to reserve to itself the privilege of retaining such facts as were of a private nature, at the same time recognizing the right of the public to accurate information in the case of an invalid holding a high public office. Moreover, there were reasons connected with the vice president's relations with the government which prompted a similar policy. This was done, however, not for the purpose of secrecy, but to avoid embarrassment.

In addition, the effect of publicity upon the vice president's health had to be considered. He was a diligent reader of newspapers, and it was observed that the alarming reports which crept into the papers and thence met the vice president's eye had a most unfavorable effect. For this reason, it was deemed advisable to keep certain facts from the public. His ailment has been diagnosed as dilated right heart due to myocarditis.

The following is authorized:

"It is apparent from this statement that the vice president is in no condition to resume his political duties at Washington. His family desires, therefore, to announce that he will not return to Washington, nor will he again take part in public affairs. His condition today is such that a fatal result may ensue at any moment or his condition may be indefinitely prolonged."

PATERSON, N. J., Nov. 1.—2:30 a. m.—Vice President Hobart is resting quietly. Dr. Newton reports his condition improving.

A LEGAL HOLIDAY.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Oct. 31.—Governor Rogers has announced that the day of the arrival of the First Washington volunteers in the state will be declared a legal holiday.

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